



**Iowa
Department
of Public
Safety**

Kevin W.
Techau,
Commissioner
Wallace State
Office
Building
Des Moines,
Iowa 50319
Telephone
Number: (515)
281-5261
Facsimile
Number: (515)
242-6136



Eugene T. Meyer, Director

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Des Moines, Iowa

James J.
Saunders, SAC
Public
Information
Officer
(515) 281-5615

The Division of Criminal Investigation Receives Grant for Creation of the Iowa Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

In July of 2004 the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), a division of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, received a federal grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program (OJJDP). These funds were awarded to the DCI to create the Iowa Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The Iowa ICAC Task Force is made up of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies across Iowa that will work together to conduct both reactive and proactive investigations of sexual exploitation of children.

Additionally, the funding will be used to develop a comprehensive

evidence forensic laboratories will be located at the Cedar Rapids Police Department, the Polk County Sheriff's Office, and the Council Bluffs Police Department, and will analyze and evaluate digital evidence from criminal investigations for Iowa law enforcement agencies.

Agencies currently involved with the Iowa ICAC Task Force in addition to the DCI are the Polk County Sheriff's Department, Cedar Rapids Police Department, Council Bluffs Police Department, Des Moines Police Department, Iowa City Police Department, Iowa State University Police Department, Iowa Attorney General's Office, Linn County Attorney's Office, Polk County Attorney's Office, Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office, United States Attorney Office Northern and Southern District of Iowa, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the U.S. Secret Service.

Gene Meyer, Director of DCI, states "The Iowa ICAC Task Force provides an opportunity for local, state, and federal authorities to collaborate on this serious problem, and typifies the cooperative efforts that DCI and Iowa law enforcement agencies work together to keep the citizens of Iowa and their communities safe."

Questions regarding the Iowa ICAC Task Force should be directed to DCI Assistant Director, Steve Bogle, at DCI headquarters, (515) 281-5138, or by email at bogle@dps.state.ia.us.

Follow the links below for Web Safety Tips:

<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/media/2004/WebSafety.pdf>



SAFETY TIPS FOR THE WEB

- Place your computer in a room where there is adult supervision; not in the child's bedroom.
- Familiarize yourself with the computer. Learn to use the programs that your child is using.
- Set rules for computer usage and post them by the computer.
 1. Never give out a password.
 2. Don't give out any personal information.
 3. Never respond to a message that is mean or makes you feel uncomfortable.
 4. Tell your parents if you come across any information that makes you feel uncomfortable.
 5. Never agree to get together with someone you meet on-line without first checking with your parents. Have your parents go with you and meet the person in a public place if you feel you need to meet them.
 6. Remember! People online may not be who they say they are.
- Report any obscene messages or images to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC's) CyberTipline at 1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com

WEB RESOURCES

Additional information regarding child safety on the Internet can be found on NCMEC's web site at www.missingkids.org. *Click on the "Help Delete Online Predators Button" for their latest campaign to learn how to better protect your children from online sexual predators.*

An excellent interactive web site for children and teens which teaches web safety is www.Netsmartz.org.

Missing Person Information Clearinghouse

Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
1-800-346-5507
www.state.ia.us/missing